

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 15, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

Reverend Dr. Rodney H. Travis, First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to You for our great Nation. We thank You for the stirring history of our people, for our achievements of the past, and for our great leaders who have given so much for our freedom today.

Guide our Nation in the way of truth and peace and let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. Help us to always remember that blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord.

We ask Your blessing and guidance upon the men and women of Congress, that they be filled with the love of truth and righteousness and that You would direct their deliberation and legislation.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 44. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 18th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

H. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 50. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 1999 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Senate

Resolution 105, adopted April 13, 1989, as amended by Public Law 105-275, and further amended by Senate Resolution 75, adopted March 25, 1999, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group—

the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), Minority Administrative Co-Chairman;

the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), Minority Co-Chairman;

the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), Minority Co-Chairman;

the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY);

the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY);

the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN);

the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES);

the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY); and

the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, announces the appointment of the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—

the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG);

the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM);

the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD); and

the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 105-244, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), to serve as a member of the Web-Based Education Commission, vice Dr. Richard J. Gowen, of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 3(b) of Public Law 105-341, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission—

Elaine L. Chao, of Kentucky;

Amy M. Holmes, of Washington, D.C.; and

Patricia C. Lamar, of Mississippi.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Executive

Order No. 12131, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the President's Export Council: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS); the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT); and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 12131, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the President's Export Council: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS); and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes per side.

Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) kindly assume the Chair.

THE POWER TO TAX IS THE POWER TO DESTROY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, it was 180 years ago that Daniel Webster said in the case of *McCullough v. Maryland* that the power to tax is the power to destroy. Well, today this Federal Government has been destroying working families all across America with excess taxation.

I rise today to support H.J. Res. 37, the Tax Limitation Amendment, that will put a leash on this Federal Government by requiring a two-thirds majority vote in both Houses to raise taxes.

In 1994, as a private citizen, I led an effort to amend our own State constitution with very similar language. I am proud to say that Nevada voters in two consecutive elections overwhelmingly passed that measure, and it has become a Nevada law. By passing this law, the citizens in Nevada declared in a loud and clear voice that they want to put a leash on the way government spending and burdensome taxes are increased.

States whose governments have similarly imposed a supermajority requirement for tax increases experience greater economic growth, lower taxes and a reduced growth in government